Appl. No. 09/894,542
Amdt. dated October 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2003

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated July 10, 2003, Applicants respectfully
request reconsideration based on the above claim amendment and the following remarks.
Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for
allowance.

Claims 1-74 are pending in the application. Claims 19, 36 and 57 have been
cancelled with prejudice, Claims 1, 18, 20, 25, 30, 32-35, 37, 56, 58, 63, 70 and 71 have
been amended, leaving claims 1-18, 20-35, 37-56 and 58-74 for consideration upon entry
of the present amendment. Specification has been amended. No new matter added by
the amendment.

Specification Objections

The specification was objected to because of informalities in pages 1 and 2.

The paragraph [0002] in pages 1-2 has been amended to insert the US serial
numbers of the related US applications.

Thus, withdrawal of the specification objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16, 18-33 and 37-55

Claims 1-16, 18-33 and 37-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being
anticipated by Hanson et al., US 6,014,427 (hereinafter "Hanson") for the reasons stated
on pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

Since claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice, the rejection of claim 19 is
moot.

The Examiner states that because the message originator can receive a certified
status report, Hanson discloses providing a status notification for a message. Applicant
respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a method for providing a status certification
for a message in a communication network, comprising assigning a message identifier for
said message; creating a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event;
associating said disposition identifier with said message; receiving a request for a status
notification of said message from a sender of said message; compiling said message

identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and providing said status notification to said sender in response to said request.

Claim 1 discloses notifying a status of a message to a sender of the message using various access means, in which the availability of the status information is not dependent on actions taken by a recipient of the message.

On the contrary, Hanson discloses providing a selected response among pre-defined responses for an action message to the originator, instead of the status of the action message. Tracked in Hanson is the total number of the recipients not the status of the message. Thus, Hanson is distinct from claim 1.

More particularly, Hanson neither discloses nor teaches the elements: creating a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event; associating said disposition identifier with said message; receiving a request for a status notification of said message from a sender of said message; compiling said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and providing said status notification to said sender in response to said request, as claimed in claim 1.

The disposition identifier, in claim 1, indicates the status of the message, for example, the deletion of the message or the opening of the message by the recipient, etc, while the pre-defined responses in Hanson are not related with the status of the message but the response itself responded by the recipient. Field 810, in Hanson, indicates the status of the record, not the status of the action message. That is, Field 810 indicates whether the message is the action message requiring one of the defined responses, a non-action message or a reply message to the action message. Further, a reply summary report, in Hanson, is the summary for the responses done by a plurality of recipients for one particular action message, not the notification of the status changes for one message.

Thus, Hanson does not anticipate or render obvious claim 1.

Claim 18 has been amended to recite a method for providing a status certification for a voicemail message in a telecommunications network comprising: (a) assigning a message identifier for said message; (b) creating a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event; and (c) associating said disposition identifier with said message; (d) receiving a request for a status notification from a sender of said message; (e) compiling

said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and (f) providing said status notification to said sender in response to said request.

Claim 37 has been amended to recite a system for providing a status certification for a message in a communications network comprising: a processor operative to assign a message identifier for said message; said processor further operative to create a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event; said processor further operative to associate said disposition identifier with said message; said processor further operative to receive a request for a status notification from a sender of said message; said processor further operative to compile said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and said processor further operative to provide said status notification to said sender in response to said request.

Claims 18 and 37 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for claim 1.

Claims 2-16 depend from claim 1, claims 20-33 depend from claim 18, and claims 38-55 depend from claim 37. Thus, claims 2-16, 20-33 and 38-55 are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on claims 1, 18 and 37.

Claims 35 and 36

Claims 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Picard et al., US 6,233,318 (hereinafter "Picard") for the reasons stated on page 6 of the Office Action.

Since claim 36 has been cancelled without prejudice, the rejection of claim 36 is moot.

Claim 35 has been amended to a method for providing a status certification for a video mail message in a video-enabled communications network, comprising receiving a request for a status notification from a sender of the message; compiling said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and providing said status notification to the sender in response to said request.

Picard discloses a unified messaging system that provides a multimedia mailbox. In Picard, the system provides an inventory including type of message, sender, status etc, to a subscriber. The subscriber is the person who receives a message from the mailbox.

Thus, the recipient of the inventory is not the sender of the message but the receiver of the message. Further, the inventory is provided to the subscriber, when the subscriber requests to receive the message. The request of the subscriber is not the request of the status notification but the request of the receiving of the message.

Thus, Picard does not disclose or suggest the elements: receiving a request for a status notification from a sender of the message; compiling said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and providing said status notification to said sender in response to said request, as claimed in claim 35.

Accordingly, Picard does not anticipate or render obvious claim 35.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 56-74

Claims 56-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson in view of LaPorta et al., US 6,014,429 (hereinafter "LaPorta") for the reasons stated on pages 7-10 of the Office Action.

Since claim 57 has been cancelled without prejudice, the rejection of claim 57 is moot.

Claim 56 has been amended to recite a system for providing a status certification for a voicemail message in an advanced intelligence network (AIN), comprising: an intelligent peripheral operative to assign a message identifier for said message; said intelligent peripheral further operative to create a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event; said intelligent peripheral further operative to associate said disposition identifier with said message; said intelligent peripheral further operative to receive a request for a status notification from a sender of said message; said intelligent peripheral further operative to compile said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and said intelligent peripheral further operative to provide said status notification in response to said request.

As described above, Hanson does not teach the elements: said intelligent peripheral further operative to create a disposition identifier in response to a disposition event; said intelligent peripheral further operative to associate said disposition identifier with said message; said intelligent peripheral further operative to receive a request for a

status notification from a sender of said message; said intelligent peripheral further operative to compile said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and said intelligent peripheral further operative to provide said status notification in response to said request, for at least the reasons given for claim 1.

LaPorta discloses a two-way wireless messaging system having a transaction server for opening and tracking messages. A message status query, in LaPorta, is answered by a user agent (12 in Fig.1 of LaPorta) by consulting the message record of a new message and if necessary, a transaction server is consulted about current delivery status (See, col. 8, ll. 26-29). Thus, the message status, in LaPorta, is not answered by using a deposition identifier but by using the message record. Further, the transaction server reports the status of transactions between messaging subscribers, instead of the status notification of an originated message (See, col. 12, ll. 11-19). Accordingly, LaPorta does not cure the deficiencies of Hanson.

Thus, the combination of Hanson and LaPorta does not render obvious claim 56, because the combination does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, as claimed in claim 56.

Claims 58-74 depend from claim 56, thus are believed to be allowable due to their dependencies on claim 56.

Claims 17 and 34

Claims 17 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson in view of Picard for the reasons stated on page 11 of the Office Action. As described above with regard to the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Picard does not teach or suggest the elements: receiving a request for a status notification of said message from a sender of said message; compiling said message identifier and said disposition identifier to generate said status notification; and providing said status notification to said sender in response to said request, as recited in claim 1. Thus, Picard does not cure the deficiencies of Hanson, and the combination of Hanson and Picard does not render obvious claim 17.

Claim 18 is believed to be allowable over the combination of Hanson and Picard for at least the reasons given for claim 1.

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Claim 17 depends from claim 1, and claim 34 depends from claim 18. Claims 17 and 34 are believed to be allowable due to their dependency on claims 1 and 18.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant submits that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

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Respectfully submitted,

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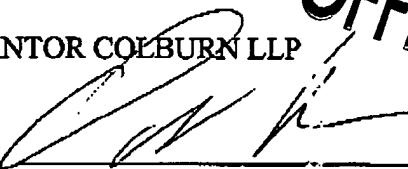
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Date: October 8, 2003